



Information for Independent, Minor Party and Indigent Candidates*

Montana Secretary of State Linda McCulloch

Elections and Government Services

soselections@mt.gov • sos.mt.gov

◆ Filing Deadlines ([13-10-503](#), MCA)

- May 31, 2016 Deadline to submit signed petitions and affidavit of signature gatherer to county election administrators*
- June 6, 2016 Deadline to file Declaration and Oath of Candidacy, and pay filing fee (unless indigent) with appropriate filing officer*
- Note: candidate ballot access is dependent on proper and timely filing of required campaign finance forms. Please check with the [Commissioner of Political Practices](#) regarding campaign finance filing requirements.

◆ Links (the first link is a fillable PDF filing form that you can complete, print, sign in front of a notary and submit in person or via mail, fax or email to the appropriate filing office):

[Independent, Minor Party, or Indigent Candidate Declaration, Oath and Petition](#)
[Affidavit of Signature Gatherer](#)
[Title 13 Election Laws](#)
[2016 Election Candidate Calendar](#)

◆ Where to file

- Candidates for federal or state office file their Declaration and Oath of Candidacy and pay the filing fee with the Secretary of State
- Candidates for local offices file their Declaration and Oath of Candidacy and pay the filing fee with the county election administrator
- All candidates submit their petitions with signatures and the Affidavit of Signature Gatherer form to the county election administrator

◆ Signature Requirements ([13-10-502](#), MCA)

- 5% or more of the total votes cast for the successful candidate for the same office at the last general election

2016 Offices	Certified Signatures Required
✓ President and Vice President, 4-year term	5,000*
✓ United States Representative, 2-year term	10,194
✓ Governor and Lieutenant Governor, 4-year term	11,823
✓ Secretary of State, 4-year term	12,252
✓ Attorney General, 4-year term	12,646
✓ State Auditor, 4-year term	12,423
✓ Superintendent of Public Instruction, 4-year term	11,770
✓ Public Service Commissioner, 4-year term	
▪ District 2	2,370
▪ District 3	2,617
▪ District 4	2,457
✓ State Senator, 4-year term	257
✓ State Representative, 2-year term	See chart on page 3 below

*For presidential filing information and forms, see <http://sos.mt.gov/Elections/Filing/Information/index.asp#Presidential>.

◆ Other Important Candidate Information

- While there is no earliest date to submit candidate petition signatures to county election administrators, the candidate declaration form cannot be filed with the appropriate filing officer before **January 14, 2016**.
- Independent Candidates:
 - ✓ Under [13-10-507](#), MCA, a person seeking office as an independent candidate may **not** be associated with a political party for 1 year prior to the submission of the candidate's nomination petition.
 - For the purposes of the law, "associated with a political party" means having run for office in Montana as a partisan candidate or having held a public office in Montana or a precinct committee representative office in Montana with a political party designation.
 - ✓ Individuals cannot file as independent candidates (or as party candidates) for nonpartisan offices.
- Qualified independent and minor party candidates appear on the General Election ballot only.
- Under [13-10-602](#), MCA, a political party and its regularly nominated candidates, members, and officers have the sole and exclusive right to the use of the party name. A candidate for office may not use any word of the name of any other political party or organization other than that by which the candidate is nominated. An independent candidate may not use any word of the name of any existing political party or organization in his or her candidacy.
- An individual who files as an indigent candidate is not required to pay a filing fee and must submit the same total number of signatures as an independent or minor party candidate. A candidate who files as an indigent-independent candidate or as an indigent-minor party candidate is only required to file one set of petition signatures.



Signatures Required in 2016 for Independent, Minor Party or Indigent Candidates for State Representative

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House Dist.	Last Successful Candidate	Votes for Last Successful Candidate	Petition Signatures Required (5% of Votes Cast for Last Successful Candidate)	House Dist.	Last Successful Candidate	Votes for Last Successful Candidate	Petition Signatures Required (5% of Votes Cast for Last Successful Candidate)
1	JERRY BENNETT	2636	132	51	MARGARET MACDONALD	1324	67
2	MIKE CUFFE	2887	145	52	DAVE HAGSTROM	1500	75
3	ZAC PERRY	1558	78	53	SARAH LASZLOFFY	3781	190
4	KEITH REGIER	2658	133	54	JEFF ESSMANN	2598	130
5	ED LIESER	2160	108	55	VINCE RICCI	2064	104
6	CARL GLIMM	2795	140	56	TOM RICHMOND	2061	104
7	FRANK GARNER	1705	86	57	FORREST MANDEVILLE	3049	153
8	STEVE LAVIN	2274	114	58	SETH BERGLEE	2774	139
9	RANDY BRODEHL	1910	96	59	ALAN REDFIELD	3255	163
10	MARK NOLAND	2966	149	60	DEBRA LAMM	2030	102
11	ALBERT OLSZEWSKI	2755	138	61	KATHLEEN WILLIAMS	2975	149
12	GREG HERTZ	2695	135	62	TOM WOODS	2890	145
13	BOB BROWN	2772	139	63	ZACH BROWN	1522	77
14	NICHOLAS SCHWADERER	2537	127	64	KERRY WHITE	2592	130
15	GEORGE KIPP III	1043	53	65	CHRISTOPHER POPE	1944	98
16	SUSAN WEBBER	1183	60	66	DENISE HAYMAN	2186	110
17	CHRISTY CLARK	2844	143	67	TOM BURNETT	2151	108
18	ROB COOK	2789	140	68	ART WITTICH	2256	113
19	RANDALL PINOCCI	2297	115	69	MATTHEW MONFORTON	3014	151
20	STEVE FITZPATRICK	2944	148	70	KELLY FLYNN	3231	162
21	TOM JACOBSON	1898	95	71	RAY SHAW	3385	170
22	ROBERT MEHLHOFF	2316	116	72	JEFFREY WELBORN	3440	172
23	WENDY MCKAMEY	1275	64	73	EDIE MCCLAFFERTY	2861	144
24	JEAN PRICE	1577	79	74	PAT NOONAN	1623	82
25	CASEY SCHREINER	1435	72	75	KIRK WAGONER	2690	135
26	MITCH TROPILA	1115	56	76	RYAN LYNCH	3614	181
27	ROY HOLLANDSWORTH	2866	144	77	KATHY SWANSON	3145	158
28	STEPHANIE HESS	1637	82	78	GORDON PIERSON	1857	93
29	BILL HARRIS	2798	140	79	JENNY ECK	2712	136
30	RYAN OSMUNDSON	3059	153	80	MIKE MILLER	2794	140
31	BRIDGET SMITH	1818	91	81	JANET ELLIS	2207	111
32	G. BRUCE MEYERS	1213	61	82	MOFFIE FUNK	2179	109
33	MIKE LANG	2759	138	83	CHUCK HUNTER	2861	144
34	AUSTIN KNUDSEN	3279	164	84	MARY ANN DUNWELL	1885	95
35	SCOTT STAFFANSON	2612	131	85	THERESA MANZELLA	3051	153
36	ALAN DOANE	2668	134	86	RON EHLI	2447	123
37	LEE RANDALL	3629	182	87	NANCY BALLANCE	2832	142
38	KENNETH HOLMLUND	1709	86	88	EDWARD GREEF	2448	123
39	GERALDINE CUSTER	2976	149	89	NATE MCCONNELL	2455	123
40	TOM BERRY	3006	151	90	ELLIE BOLDMAN HILL	2779	139
41	RAE PEPPERS	1512	76	91	BRYCE BENNETT	3703	186
42	CAROLYN PEASE-LOPEZ	2391	120	92	DAVID (DOC) MOORE	1935	97
43	CLAYTON FISCUS	1757	88	93	DANIEL SALOMON	1842	93
44	DALE MORTENSEN	1883	95	94	KIMBERLY DUDIK	1748	88
45	DANIEL ZOLNIKOV	2494	125	95	NANCY WILSON	2226	112
46	DONALD JONES	2948	148	96	ANDREW PERSON	1819	91
47	KATHY KELKER	1701	86	97	BRAD TSCHIDA	2209	111
48	JESSICA KARJALA	1889	95	98	WILLIS CURDY	2266	114
49	KELLY MCCARTHY	1289	65	99	TOM STEENBERG	2685	135
50	VIRGINIA COURT	1657	83	100	ANDREA OLSEN	3252	163